

Production No. 9F16

The Simpsons

"THE FRONT"

Written by

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Return to Script Department
20TH CENTURY FOX TELEVISION
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TABLE DRAFT

Date 8/20/92

FOR TABLE READ ONLY

"THE FRONT"

by

Adam I. Lapidus

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARGE.....JULIE KAVNER
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH
HOMER'S BRAIN.....DAN CASTELLANETA
BART'S BRAIN.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
LISA'S BRAIN.....YEARDLEY SMITH
GRAMPADAN CASTELLANETA
BROOKE SHIELDS.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
KRUSTY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
CHEF.....HARRY SHEARER
ITCHY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
SCRATCHY.....HARRY SHEARER
ROGER MEYERS.....HANK AZARIA
WRITER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
ROXIE.....DORIS GRAU
ADULT.....HARRY SHEARER

PRINCIPAL DONDELINGER...HARRY SHEARER
 BARNEY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
 BARNEY'S BOSS.....HANK AZARIA
 ARTY ZIFF.....HANK AZARIA
 LARRY DAVIS.....HARRY SHEARER
 WOMAN.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
 JASPER.....HARRY SHEARER
 ORDERLY.....HANK AZARIA
 BOBBY MINDICH.....HANK AZARIA
 NELSON'S DAD.....DAN CASTELLANETA
 NELSON.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
 WRITER #2.....HARRY SHEARER
 JAPANESE SCRATCHY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
 GERMAN SCRATCHY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
 FRENCH SCRATCHY.....HANK AZARIA
 APU.....HANK AZARIA
 WIGGUM.....HANK AZARIA
 QUIMBY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
 MISS HOOVER.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
 MAUDE FLANDERS.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
 PARKING LOT ATTENDANT...HANK AZARIA
 ANNOUCER (V.O.).....HARRY SHEARER
 GRAMPA ITCHY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
 GRAMPA SCRATCHY.....HARRY SHEARER
 CLASS.....NANCY/MAGGIE/HANK/DAN/HARRY

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. KRUSTY THE CLOWN SHOW - DAY

KRUSTY is doing a cooking demonstration with a deli CHEF.

KRUSTY

(SAMPLING FOOD) Mmm. Delicious.

CHEF

Now, Krusty, I heard it's your birthday so I got your mother's recipe for matzoh brei.

KRUSTY

Hey, I don't do the Jewish stuff on the air.

CHEF

But Herschel, bubbeleh --

KRUSTY

Ix-nay on the Ew-Jay! (TO CAMERA)

Roll the cartoon.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BART and LISA watch the television.

LISA

It's so sad that Krusty's ashamed of his heritage.

BART

Yeah. Like you tell people Homer's
your father.

The Itchy and Scratchy THEME starts and the title comes on:
"DAZED AND CONTUSED."

ANGLE - THE SCREEN

A poorly animated ITCHY is lethargically HITTING SCRATCHY
with a mallet.

SCRATCHY

Ow.

ITCHY

(MIRTHLESS) He, he, he.

SCRATCHY

Ow.

ITCHY

(MIRTHLESS) He, he, he.

SCRATCHY

Ow.

ITCHY

(MIRTHLESS) He, he, he.

ANGLE ON BART AND LISA

LISA

This is a rather lifeless outing.

BART

Don't worry. They're building to
something.

ANGLE ON THE SCREEN

SCRATCHY

Ow.

ITCHY

(MIRTHLESS) He, he, he.

SCRATCHY

Ow.

ITCHY

(MIRTHLESS) He, he, he.

SCRATCHY

Stop.

ITCHY

Okay.

They freeze in mid swing.

TITLE CARD: THE END

INT. KRUSTY THE CLOWN SHOW - CONTINUOUS

Krusty has a cigarette in his hand.

KRUSTY

(DISGUSTED NOISE) I could pull a
better cartoon out of the crack of
my... (NOTICING THE CAMERA) Wasn't
that great, kids?

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

LISA

That's as bad as the tasteless Itchy
and Sambo cartoons of the late 30's.
The writers should be ashamed of
themselves.

BART

Cartoons have writers?

LISA

Sort of. Look...

Lisa walks to the television and points to the screen as
the credits roll. Then, after "KEY GRIP," "BEST BOY" and
"CARTOON MENS WEAR BY BOTANY 500," Lisa points to a very
small credit which reads, "WRITTEN BY MILT FINEBERG & HY
LEVINE." PULL BACK to see Lisa's finger dwarfs the size of
the credit.

LISA (CONT'D)

(READING) Written by Milt Fineberg
and Hy Levine.

BART

(SPITTING ON SCREEN) Bah. I could
write a better "Itchy and Scratchy"
than that.

LISA

Hmmm, interesting...

LISA'S THOUGHT BALLOON

She is at a typewriter with a pencil behind her ear as Bart
paces back and forth. She pulls a script page out and
hands it to Itchy who walks onto a movie set with Scratchy,
who is also holding a script. Itchy chops Scratchy's head
off with an axe then looks at Lisa. He gives her the
"thumbs up" sign.

BACK TO SCENE

LISA

Bart, are you thinking what I'm
thinking?

BART

Probably not.

ANGLE - BART'S THOUGHT BALLOON

Bart, carrying a machine gun, is robbing Santa's toy shop. The elves and Santa hold their hands up. Bart has a truck full of toys.

BART

Now lie on the floor and count to 60.

BACK TO SCENE

LISA

Why don't we write an "Itchy and
Scratchy" episode? We'd make a great
team with my writing skills and your
semi-psychotic tendencies.

ANGLE ON BART

He is now imagining himself shaking down the Easter Bunny. Realizing what Lisa has said, he shakes his head dispelling the fantasy.

BART

Forget it Lis. Writers get chump
change. When I grow up I want to be
a toady to some talk show host. Hi-
yo! (LAUGHS LIKE ED MCMAHON)

LISA

If we don't do it, then Fineberg and
Levine will.

BART

(ENRAGED) "Fineberg and Levine."

Lis, I'm in.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

MARGE prepares dinner as HOMER looks through a pile of
mail. Most of the letters are bills with screaming red
letters on them reading "THIRD NOTICE," "FINAL NOTICE,"
"SOME GUYS ARE COMING." Homer comes across a letter.

HOMER

Woo hoo! It's marked personal.

(GROANS) It's not for me...

He tosses it in the trash. Marge picks it out.

MARGE

(ANNOYED) Homer, it's addressed to
me. (OPENS LETTER) It's an invitation
to our high school reunion.

Looks at the mail.

MARGE (CONT'D)

Gee, that's odd. They didn't send
one to you.

ANGLE ON HOMER

Looking stricken.

HOMER'S BRAIN (V.O)

This is it, Homer. It's time to tell
her the terrible secret from your
past.

HOMER

Marge, I ate those fancy soaps you
bought for the bathroom.

MARGE

Oh my God.

HOMER'S BRAIN (V.O)

No, the other secret.

HOMER

Marge, I never graduated from high
school. I was one credit short.

MARGE

Well that still doesn't explain why
you ate my soap.

HOMER

(MOANS) Now I can't go to my class
reunion.

MARGE

You can go as my date.

HOMER

(SLYLY) Then afterwards we can go to
"Inspiration Point" and watch the
submarine races.

HOMER'S THOUGHT BUBBLE

He pictures himself and Marge sitting on a hill overlooking
the ocean, watching two racing submarines.

HOMER

Woo hoo! Go Nautilus.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LISA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bart sits on the bed. Lisa sits at her typewriter, looking through a book titled, "HOW TO MAKE MONEY WRITING CARTOONS by JOHN SWARTZWELDER."

LISA

According to this book, the first thing we need is a three act structure.

BART

Ok, mouse hurts cat, mouse kills cat, mouse defiles cat's grave.

LISA

Next we'll need a setting. Someplace we can put Itchy and Scratchy, like an English boarding school or Periclean Athens.

BART

(SKEPTICAL) How about a barber shop?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CARTOON BARBER SHOP

As Bart speaks, his idea comes to life. Scratchy comes in the front door.

BART (V.O)

Scratchy comes in for a haircut. He sits down. He reads a magazine and all of a sudden Scratchy's head falls off!

Scratchy's head falls off and his neck spurts blood.

LISA

I don't buy it, it's unmotivated.

Scratchy's head rolls back onto his shoulders.

LISA (V.O)

I see Itchy coming in with a razor

and cutting Scratchy's head off.

Itchy enters dressed as a barber. He CHOPS off Scratchy's head with a razor.

BART (V.O)

Pfft! That ol' chestnut? The way I

see it, instead of shampoo Itchy

covers Scratchy's hair with barbecue

sauce...

The razor disappears and is replaced by a bottle of barbecue sauce. Itchy coats Scratchy's head with sauce as if lathering it.

BART (V.O) (CONT'D)

... opens a box of flesh-eating

ants...

Itchy opens a box labelled "Flesh-Eating Ants." The ANTS swarm on Scratchy, gnawing his head through to the skull.

BART (V.O) (CONT'D)

... and the rest writes itself.

Itchy pulls out a barber's hand mirror and holds it up to the back of Scratchy's skull for him to see his "hair cut." Scratchy SCREAMS. Itchy WHACKS Scratchy's skull off with the mirror.

EXT. BARBER SHOP - THE NEXT DAY

In the window next to photos of people with various hairstyles, Itchy hangs a picture of Scratchy's smiling skull.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LISA'S ROOM- NIGHT

Lisa finishes typing.

LISA

Now, all we need is a title. How
about "Barbarian of Seville"?

BART

Too uptown. How about "Shaving
Scream"?

LISA

Swing and a miss.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LISA'S ROOM - LATER

They are both sitting, exhausted, still trying to think of
a title. Crumpled paper and empty Chinese food containers
lay all around.

LISA

"Little Barber Shop of Horrors"?

Bart thinks it over.

BART

Well, it's not great, but we have to
be in school in half an hour.

Lisa types in the title, rips out the final sheet and lays
it on a pile of typewritten pages.

LISA

Finished. Now all we have to do is
put our names on it.

BART

Fine. (PAUSE) Put my name first.

LISA

No way.

BART

All right we'll compromise. Use my
first name and your last name.

LISA

Okay. (THINKS) Wait a minute. Look
there's only one honorable way to
settle this: rock, paper, scissors.

Bart and Lisa each put a hand behind their backs. PAN UP
to Lisa's brain.

LISA'S BRAIN (V.O)

Poor predictable Bart. Always takes
rock.

PAN UP to Bart.

BART'S BRAIN (V.O)

Good ol' rock. Nothing beats that.

They each bring out their hands.

BART

Rock.

LISA

Paper.

BART

(ANNOYED GRUNT) I always forget
about paper.

EXT. ITCHY AND SCRATCHY STUDIOS ESTABLISHING - DAY

INT. ROGER MEYERS' OFFICE - TWO DAYS LATER

ROGER stands behind his desk, SCREAMING at a nerdy WRITER.

MEYERS

You call this writing!? If I puked
in a fountain pen and mailed it to
the monkey house I'd get better
scripts!

WRITER

But sir, at Harvard they taught me
to...

MEYERS

Hit the streets, egghead! You
should've majored in Not-Getting-
Fired.

The writer exits. Meyers' secretary, ROXIE enters with the
morning mail. She hands Meyers a script with a cover-
letter.

ROXIE

Sir, a Lisa and Bart Simpson sent you
a script...

MEYERS

(READING) Dear Mr. Meyers: My brother
and I watch your show. You should be
proud that children everywhere blah -
blah - blah...

He crumples up the letter and tosses it into an enormous
pile of crumpled letters.

ROXIE

Shall I send the usual rejection
letter?

MEYERS

Nah, they're just kids. I better do it myself.

He starts to dictate a letter.

MEYERS (CONT'D)

Dear Bart and Lisa, when I hire an employee, I like to think he can go potty on his own, so stick to what you know: staring at the tube with one thumb in your mouth and the other one in your...

INT. BART AND LISA'S BEDROOM

A shocked Lisa is reading the letter to Bart.

LISA

"... A -- ear."

Bart grabs the letter.

BART

Don't sugar coat it. We're both adults here.

Lisa looks a little dejected.

LISA

This man works in TV. He must know what's good. I guess we're just not cut out to be writers.

Lisa throws the script in the trash. Bart pulls it out.

BART

Lis, he just doesn't take us
seriously 'cause we're kids. Let's
put a grownup's name on it.

LISA

Hm. Well, how about Grampa? He's
the oldest person I know.

BART

I'm liking. I'm liking.

LISA

Wait a minute. What's Grampa's first
name?

BART

Grampa doesn't have a first name.
The same way he doesn't have a TV or
a phone.

Lisa gives him a look.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Homer flips through a large, red book.

HOMER

Ah, my high school yearbook...

ANGLE - THE PAGE WITH HOMER'S PICTURE

His eyes are closed and his mouth is open. His hair sticks
out on both sides and he has a wimpy teenage moustache.

HOMER

You handsome devil.

He looks at the quote beneath his picture.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(READING) "I can't believe I ate the whole thing." (SIGHS) It's as true now as it was then.

Bart and Lisa enter.

LISA

Dad, what's Grampa first name?

HOMER

(THINKS) H-mm. Dad. No, wait, it's "Willie"... or "Tim," that kind of thing.

BART

(DISGUSTED) Let's go.

HOMER

Wait, ask me where he lives. C'mon, I know that one.

Bart and Lisa exit.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(CALLING AFTER THEM) He's in a nursing home!

EXT. SPRINGFIELD RETIREMENT HOME - ESTABLISHING SHOT

INT. GRAMPA'S ROOM

GRAMPA sits at his desk, pounding out a letter on an ancient typewriter.

GRAMPA

"... when I read your magazine I don't see one wrinkled face or anyone on a crutch or hooked up to a machine. For shame!" (ADDRESSING LETTER) To the sickos at Modern Bride magazine.

Bart and Lisa enter.

BART

Hey Grampa, we need to know your first name.

GRAMPA

(HORRIFIED) You're making my tombstone!

LISA

No, we're just curious.

GRAMPA

Well let's see. (THINKING) It's "Willie"... or "Tim," that kind of thing.

LISA

Maybe it's written on your underwear.

Grampa checks his underwear drawer and raises his hand in triumph.

GRAMPA

Call me... Hanes Medium!

Grampa checks the drawer again and finds an old pair with writing on it.

GRAMPA

No, wait. (READING) Abraham Simpson.

(REALIZING) Oh my God. I've been
getting the wrong pills for two
years.

INT. ROGER MEYERS' OFFICE - NIGHT

Roger Meyers sits behind his desk. He picks up a script from a large pile on his desk. It reads, "THE LITTLE BARBER SHOP OF HORRORS" and below the title, "WRITTEN BY ABRAHAM SIMPSON." As Meyers turns the pages he starts to CHUCKLE. His chuckling turns to LAUGHTER, then HYSTERICAL LAUGHTER. He urgently BUZZES his secretary.

MEYERS

Roxie, get me Abraham Simpson!

ROXIE (V.O.)

Get him yourself.

MEYERS

If I ever find that roll of film,
she's out of here.

ROXIE (V.O.)

Dream on, pervert.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON HOME - NEXT DAY - NIGHT

Marge is dressed up, Homer enters in his suit.

HOMER

Ahh. My High School Reunion. It'll
be great to see the old gang again...
Potsy, Ralph Malph, Arthur Fonzerelli
a.k.a. "The Fonz."

MARGE

That was "Happy Days."

HOMER

Oh yeah, you're right. I had no
friends.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

A banner read "WELCOME CLASS OF 1974." On the lawn,
several ADULT BULLIES are roughing up a SMALLER ADULT.

ADULT

C'mon, guys, I'm a State Legislator
now!

NELSON'S DAD

(NELSON VOICE) Big deal! (TO FRIEND)
Get his pants.

At the door, we see PRINCIPAL DONDELINGER

PRINCIPAL DONDELINGER

Come in, come in, we're all adults
now.

WOMAN

Hello, Art.

PRINCIPAL DONDELINGER

My name is Principal Dondelinger and
you are in a lot of trouble.

Homer and Marge approach.

PRINCIPAL DONDELINGER (CONT'D)

(WARMLY) Marge Bouvier, it's so good
to see you.

Dondelinger turns to Homer.

PRINCIPAL DONDELINGER (CONT'D)

Sorry, sir. The fortieth reunion is
next week.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

PRINCIPAL DONDELINGER

Oh, it's you Simpson. (DISGUSTED
NOISE)

Dondelinger exits. Marge and Homer enter the gym.

HOMER

(SEES SOMEONE) Look, there's Bobby
Mindich, the class clown.

Homer waves to BOBBY. Bobby slumps his shoulders, scowls,
and makes two peace signs.

BOBBY MINDICH

(A LA NIXON) I am not a crook.

HOMER

Heh heh, he's still got it!

BARNEY crosses to Homer and Marge. He's wearing a tuxedo.

BARNEY

Hey Homer, Marge.

MARGE

(IMPRESSED) Barney, a tuxedo!

BARNEY

I bet nobody expected old Barney to
look this good. Uh-oh. My boss is
watching.

Barney picks up a tray and walks into the crowd.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

Canapes? Canapes anyone? (SEES
SOMEONE, GLOATING) So it's the girl
who was too good for me. Canape?

INT. GYMNASIUM - THE STAGE

The LEAD SINGER for the band takes the microphone.

LARRY DAVIS

Come on, Class of '74. It's time to
shake your booty to the theme from
"The Exorcist."

The BAND starts playing "TUBULAR BELLS" and everyone starts
to dance.

INT. GYM - A LITTLE LATER

Marge sees someone.

MARGE

Oh my God, it's my old boyfriend,
Artie Ziff.

ARTIE approaches. He has a thin moustache and carries a gold walking stick.

ARTIE

Hello, Marge. Have you heard? I'm stinking rich.

MARGE

How nice for you.

ARTIE

You know those air fresheners you plug into the wall? (TAPS CHEST) Mine.

He points his walking stick at Homer.

ARTIE (CONT'D)

Jealous?

HOMER

I'll bet you'd trade it all for one night with my wife.

ARTIE

(ADMITTING) I would.

HOMER

(CONSIDERING) Hmmm.

MARGE

Homer!

INT. GYMNASIUM - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Bobby Mindich, the class clown, is at the podium. He's doing a Cheech and Chong routine.

BOBBY MINDICH

(LATINO VOICE) Hey, man. It's Dave.

Open up man. (SPACED OUT VOICE)

Dave's not here, man.

HOMER

(LAUGHS UPROARIOUSLY) He doesn't want

Dave, he is Dave. (LAUGHS SOME MORE)

BOBBY MINDICH

Now let's get on with our (ED
SULLIVAN IMPRESSION) rilly big
shew...

HOMER

(WHISPERS TO MARGE) Ed Sullivan.

MARGE

Shh.

BOBBY MINDICH

... and give out the awards. The
alumnus who's gained the most
weight...

SFX DRUM ROLL

BOBBY MINDICH (CONT'D)

Homer Simpson!

A spotlight falls on a surprised Homer.

HOMER

Woo Hoo!

He runs up to the stage and taunts another fat man.

HOMER (CONT'D)

In your face, string bean.

FLIP TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM - LATER

Bobby Mindich opens another envelope.

BOBBY MINDICH

The man who lost the most hair...

Homer Simpson!

HOMER

(PUMPING FIST) Yes!

FLIP TO:

HOMER'S TABLE

It's covered with awards and Homer has his fingers crossed.

BOBBY MINDICH (V.O.)

And the person who travelled the
least distance to be here... (OPENING
ENVELOPE) The man's a machine, Homer
Simpson!

HOMER

Woo hoo! A clean sweep.

Homer runs to the stage and accepts his award

HOMER (CONT'D)

(EMBARRASSED) What can I say... It
hasn't been easy staying in my rut...

(FLASHING PEACE SIGN) Increase the
peace.

Principal Dondelinger comes up to the podium.

PRINCIPAL DONDELINGER

Class of '74, I have some horrific news. The integrity of these awards has been besmirched. Homer Simpson never passed Basic Science 1A and thus never graduated from high school.

The audience GASPS.

PRINCIPAL DONDELINGER

I'm sorry, Simpson, but I'm going to have to take back those awards.

HOMER

Fine, but just try to find someone fatter, balder and less ambitious!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL COURTYARD - LATER

Homer is sitting on some steps outside the gym, looking dejected. Marge is trying to comfort him.

MARGE

Homer, I love you whether you graduated or not.

HOMER

I know Marge, it's just the thought of all those people laughing at me.

MARGE

Nobody's laughing at you. Now let's go inside.

They open the door to the gym and stop cold. Everyone is LAUGHING hysterically.

Bobby Mindich is doing a Howard Cosell impression by holding his nose and SPEAKING into a spoon.

BOBBY MINDICH

This is Howard Cosmell. Homer
Simpson is a Class A boob.

BARNEY

Didn't graduate. How low can you
get?

Barney's boss walks up.

BARNEY'S BOSS

Barney, where's your cummerbund?

BARNEY

It fell in the toilet.

Homer turns to Marge with a determined look.

HOMER

Marge, I don't care what it takes,
reading... writing... or
whatchamacallit... that number
deal... I'll graduate from high
school.

Artie Ziff walks by.

ARTIE

I was first in my class at Yale
Medical School.

Homer points to Marge.

HOMER

We made love twice last month.

ARTIE

(JEALOUS NOISE)

INT. SPRINGFIELD RETIREMENT HOME - DAY

JASPER

What do you want to do today?

GRAMPA

Wanna go to the grocery store and
bring back another shopping cart?

WIDEN to see a big pile of shopping carts in the room.

JASPER

You know what I like.

An ORDERLY holds up a phone receiver and sticks his head in
the room.

ORDERLY

Phone call, Simpson.

Grampa grabs the phone.

GRAMPA

Beh?

ROXIE (V.O.)

Is this the Abraham Simpson who wrote
the "Itchy and Scratchy" episode?

GRAMPA

"Ischy and Wha?" You must be some
kind of crazy person!

ROXIE (V.O.)

I'm sorry, but we have a substantial
check here for a Mr. Abraham Simpson.

GRAMPA

That's right, I did the "Iggy."

INT. ROGER MEYERS' OFFICE - LATER

Grampa stands in front of Roger Meyers.

MEYERS

You're a comedy writer? My god,
you're so old...

GRAMPA

I want my check!

MEYERS

(CHUCKLES) You're a writer all right.

(HANDS HIM A CHECK) Here you go,
Simpson.

GRAMPA

I want another one.

MEYERS

You're a funny guy. How would you
like a staff job? I'll start you at
eight hundred dollars a week.

GRAMPA

Can I keep the office uncomfortably
warm?

MEYERS

You're a pistol, Simpson. C'mon,
let's meet the staff!

GRAMPA

My chest hurts.

INT. WRITERS' OFFICE - DAY

It's a pig sty, filled with rotting food and flies. A team of WRITERS try HITTING each other with different objects. One tries a golf club, the other tries a frying pan. A third writer furtively peeks at an issue of "Itchy and Scratchy Comics" and takes notes. Grampa and Meyers enter.

MEYERS

All right, leeches, I want you to see what a good writer looks like. His name's Abraham Simpson and he's got something you couldn't get at your fancy schools... life experience.

WRITER #2

Actually, I wrote my thesis on life experience...

MEYERS

Quiet! Abe, tell 'em about your amazing life,

GRAMPA

I was born in Springfield. Got married. She died. I forget how. Now I'm here.

MEYERS

This guy's got it!

GRAMPA

Yeah. But they say it's progressing very slowly.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - NIGHT

Bart and Lisa are watching television.

ON TV

Krusty the Clown is demonstrating how to use a nicotine patch.

KRUSTY

So this patch steadily releases
nicotine into my body, eliminating my
need for cigarettes.

Krusty stares uncomfortably for a beat, then starts ravenously licking the nicotine patch.

KRUSTY

(SLURPING NOISES, THEN) Roll the
cartoon.

An "Itchy and Scratchy" cartoon comes on. As the credits roll we see a title card: "Little Barber Shop of Horrors" written by Abraham J. Simpson.

LISA

Bart, it's our cartoon! On TV!
Isn't it great?

BART

Yeah. Could creating something
actually be more rewarding than
destroying the works of others?
It'll be something to ponder when I
wind up in the clink.

ON TV

We see "The End" Title Card.

BACK TO SCENE

BART/LISA

(SIGH)

Homer walks in.

HOMER

Bart, Lisa I have something to tell
you, and I'm not proud of it. (BEAT)
I never graduated from high school.

BART

(LAUGHS HEARTILY)

HOMER

(A LITTLE MAD) So I'm going back to
school to get my diploma.

LISA

Wow, Dad. That takes a lot of
courage.

BART

I'm proud of you, too. You got
married and raised a family... all
with the mind of a child.

HOMER

Bart!

BART

Lis, get Tiny here a cookie, he's
earned it.

A GROWLING Homer grabs Bart and starts to CHOKe him.

INT. SIMPSON FOYER - A FEW DAYS LATER

The doorbell RINGS and Homer answers it, revealing Grampa.
He's wearing a nice suit and a fancy monocle.

GRAMPA

Hello, son! It's the first of the
month and you've gotta feed me.

GRAMPA'S POV

One eye sees clearly and the other is blurred. Homer is
standing in the clear section.

HOMER

An eye - thingy! (SCOLDING) Dad, that
must've cost fifteen dollars. You
haven't been holding out on me, have
you?

Grampa switches the monocle so Homer is now in the blurry
section.

GRAMPA

Ah, that's better.

INT. SIMPSON DINING ROOM

Grampa and the family are eating dinner.

GRAMPA

...so they're paying me eight hundred
dollars a week to tell a cat and a
mouse what to do.

HOMER

(SKEPTICAL) I see.

HOMER'S THOUGHT BUBBLE

We see a building labeled "Nut House." Homer rolls Grampa
up in a wheelbarrow.

GRAMPA

Lalalalalala.

Homer RINGS the doorbell and runs away.

BACK TO SCENE

BART

Dad, can we talk to Grampa alone for
a minute?

HOMER

All right. (CONFIDENTIALLY) But if he
starts to wig out, try to lure him
into the cellar.

INT. SIMPSON LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Grampa sits on the couch as Bart and Lisa wrap up their
explanation.

LISA

...so we put your name on the script
and sent it in.

BART

Didn't you wonder why you were
getting checks for doing absolutely
nothing?

GRAMPA

(SUDDENLY IRATE) Don't you dare touch
my Social Security! I paid into that
thing for three years!

BART

I was talking about "Itchy and
Scratchy."

GRAMPA

Oh. (SUDDENLY IRATE) Don't you dare
touch my Social Security!

LISA

Grampa, we could write the scripts
for you and split the money three
ways.

GRAMPA

I dunno. I'd better sleep on it.
(FALLS ASLEEP, SNORES)

BART

Grampa? Grampa?

He nudges Grampa.

GRAMPA

(SPUTTERS) Why'd you wake me? I was
having the nicest dream. I dreamed I
was Queen of the Old West.

BART

Do we have a deal?

GRAMPA

Sure, sure.

Grampa falls back to sleep. SNORES a bit, then:

GRAMPA (CONT'D)

Oh, Mr. Earp, your moustache is
tickling me. (GIGGLES)

INT. ITCHY AND SCRATCHY STUDIOS - GRAMPA'S OFFICE - DAY

Bart and Lisa are typing a script as Grampa sleeps on the
couch.

GRAMPA

(STILL SLEEPING) All right Chief
Squash Blossom, I'll be your squaw.

Meyers walks in.

MEYERS

What the hell's going on here?

GRAMPA

I was carrying the seed of an Arapaho Chief.

MEYERS

(LAUGHS) Funny, this guy is. But who are these kids?

GRAMPA

These are some kids my son had.

MEYERS

Your grandchildren. Why didn't you say so? C'mon, I'll give you a tour of the studio.

BART/LISA

Yay!

MEYERS

Abe, are you comin'?

GRAMPA

(STANDING) Any stairs?

MEYERS

Just one.

GRAMPA

Nuts to you!

Grampa sits back down.

INT. ANIMATION BUILDING

Meyers leads Bart and Lisa through glass doors labeled:
"Animation Wing."

LISA

It must be expensive to produce all
these cartoons.

MEYERS

We cut corners. Sometimes, to save
money, our animators will re-use the
same backgrounds over and over
again...

As they walk down the hallway, we see the same water
fountain, door, and CLEANING WOMAN pass several times in
the background.

INT. DUBBING BUILDING

They walk past a series of sound booths.

MEYERS

These rooms are where we dub the show
into forty different languages.

Bart and Lisa look into the room. We see TWO JAPANESE MEN
standing at mics. Behind them is a screen which plays a
scene of Itchy running Scratchy through a paper shredder.

JAPANESE SCRATCHY

(SCREAMS)

They continue to the next room. Above the window it says,
'GERMAN.' Inside are TWO LARGE BLONDE MEN at the mics
dubbing the same scene.

GERMAN SCRATCHY

(SCREAMS)

They move on to a third window marked "FRENCH." Inside TWO
MEN WEARING BERETS stand at the mics.

FRENCH SCRATCHY

(A LA JERRY LEWIS) Nice Mouse. Stop
with the pain-making. (ETC.)

EXT. SPRINGFIELD ADULT EDUCATION CENTER - NIGHT

MIDDLE-AGED PEOPLE, including Homer, file in. NELSON
stands next to them and points.

NELSON

Haw, Haw! Haw, Haw! Haw, Haw!

INT. CLASSROOM

Homer takes a seat next to APU.

HOMER

Apu, what are you doing here?

APU

I want to regain my credentials. In
my native land I was a neurosurgeon.
Here I sell tobacco, alcohol and
sugar water.

HOMER

Either way you're fighting the good
fight.

Principal Dondelinger enters.

PRINCIPAL DONDELINGER

Welcome to Remedial Science 1A. I'm
Principal Dondelinger. My wife
passed away not long ago and I
thought I'd return to teaching to
ease my loneliness.

HOMER

Will this be on the test?

PRINCIPAL DONDELINGER

No.

HOMER

(MOANS)

We see he's written "Dead Wife" on a sheet of paper. He starts erasing it, furiously.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Grampa and Bart approach each other. Both wear trench coats and both carry suitcases.

GRAMPA

Got the script?

BART

Got the money?

They each nod and switch suitcases. PAN OVER to WIGGUM and QUIMBY (wearing his Mayor's sash) in another area of the same garage.

QUIMBY

Got the photos?

WIGGUM

Got the donuts?

They switch suitcases.

In another corner we see MRS. HOOVER furtively talking to MAUDE FLANDERS.

MAUDE FLANDERS

Do you have the dress pattern?

MISS HOOVER

Do you have the peach preserves?

They switch suitcases. PAN OVER TO the PARKING LOT ATTENDANT.

PARKING LOT ATTENDANT

Don't nobody wanna park no more?

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASS - NIGHT

We see STUDENTS dissecting a frog. PAN OVER to see Homer is dissecting a watermelon.

INT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - NIGHT

The AUDIENCE is packed with people in tuxedos and sequined gowns. Kettle drums RUMBLE.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And now to present the award for
outstanding writing in a cartoon
series, Krusty the Clown and Brooke
Shields.

The audience APPLAUDS as Krusty and BROOKE SHIELDS walk hand in hand to a podium. Krusty reads the Teleprompter.

KRUSTY

Well, here we are, the star of "The
Blue Lagoon" and "The Blue Haired
Goon." (REALIZING) What the...
that's terrible.

BROOKE

Cartoons have the power to make us
laugh and to make us cry. Wouldn't
you agree, Krusty?

KRUSTY

First of all my hair is green, not
blue. I got nothin' to work with
here.

He angrily walks off the stage. Brooke looks around
nervously for a beat.

BROOKE

(NERVOUS NOISE) Uh... The nominees
for best writing in a cartoon series
are... "Strong-dar, Master of Akom,"
the "Wedding" episode. Fineberg and
Levine writers.

ANGLE - CLIP

We see a "HE-MAN" TYPE HERO marrying a very normal looking
WOMAN. He tugs nervously at his collar.

BROOKE (V.O)

"Action-Figure Man," the "How to Buy
Action Figure Man" episode. Hy
Levine writer.

ANGLE - CLIP

a CHILD and his MOTHER in a department store. The child
points to an action figure on a shelf and CRIES. The
mother rolls her eyes and picks up the toy.

BROOKE (V.O)

"Ren and Stimpy", season premiere.

ON SCREEN

We see an art card that reads "CLIP NOT DONE YET."

BROOKE (V.O)

And, finally, "Itchy and Scratchy,"
"The Little Barber Shop of Horrors"
episode. Writer Abraham Simpson.

ANGLE - CLIP

We see the shot of Itchy knocking Scratchy's head off with
the barber mirror. The audience LAUGHS.

BROOKE

(CHUCKLING) And the winner is...
"Itchy and Scratchy," Abraham Simpson
writer!

An overjoyed Grampa takes the stage as the crowd APPLAUDS.
Brooke Shields hands him an award and kisses him on the
cheek.

GRAMPA

Thank you, thank you! There are so
many people that helped me get here;
me sainted mither, me no-account
fither... the young motorcyclist that
gave me my heart. But most of all I
want to thank two little people who
help me out in a (WINK) very special
way... Itchy and Scratchy! Bye bye,
now.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

A shocked Bart and Lisa watch the award show.

LISA

He didn't even mention us!

BART

We've been 'dissed! I'll never watch
an awards show again... unless that
delightful Billy Crystal's involved.

INT. SPRINGFIELD RETIREMENT HOME - DAY

Grampa's heading into his room, saying goodbye to Brooke.
He's holding his award.

BROOKE

Thanks for the tour, it's a great
nursing home.

GRAMPA

It does the job. (CLICKS TONGUE)
Wanna come inside? We can drink too
much cough syrup and get stupid.

BROOKE

Ew, no.

Brooke exits and Grampa enters the room and turns on the
light. Bart and Lisa are inside waiting for him. He
clutches his chest as if he's having a heart attack.

LISA

Why didn't you mention our names?

GRAMPA

I dunno. Hoggin' the credit I guess.

BART

After all the work we've done.

GRAMPA

Yeah, well lately your scripts have been a little flat. Maybe I'll just find someone else to write for "Ritchy and Cathy."

BART

"Itchy and Scratchy!" Their names are "Itchy and Scratchy!"

LISA

And from now on you can write the lousy scripts yourself. Let's go, Bart!

Bart and Lisa storm out.

GRAMPA

(CALLING AFTER THEM) Yeah, well I can't wait to get my fingers on that keyboard.

Grampa looks at his gnarled hands.

GRAMPA (CONT'D)

Yahhhh!

Suddenly, the phone RINGS and Grampa answers it.

MEYERS

Abe? It's Meyers. Amnesty International just shut down our ink and paint department in Mexico.

(MORE)

MEYERS (CONT'D)

We need another script, pronto!

Grampa lowers the phone.

GRAMPA

(SMALL VOICE) I'm a bad old man.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. GRAMPA'S OFFICE - DAY

Grampa is staring at a blank piece of paper in his typewriter. The clock TICKS. Meyers enters.

MEYERS

Ah, Simpson. Hard at work. I just wanted to tell you I've fired all the other writers. From now on the fate of the entire company rests on that award-winning coconut of yours.

He PATS Grampa's head affectionately.

GRAMPA

Oh no! We're all doomed! I'm a complete fraud, and I can't do any of the things you're paying me to do.

MEYERS

(NOT LISTENING) Sorry, I didn't catch any of that. (CHECKS WATCH) And now I gotta go.

Meyers exits.

GRAMPA

(PANICKY) I gotta write something.

He tentatively types a few words.

GRAMPA (CONT'D)

(ENCOURAGED) Hey.

He types some more.

GRAMPA (CONT'D)

(CHUCKLES) Not bad.

He presses the intercom button.

GRAMPA (CONT'D)

Roxie, hold all my calls.

ROXIE (V.O.)

(THROUGH INTERCOM) Who is this?

INT. SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Homer connects a wire to a lemon "battery." A tiny bulb lights up.

HOMER

It works!

He starts writing in a lab notebook.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(WRITING) "When the two electrodes are placed in the lemon, electricity is generated."

DONDELINGER

Very good, Homer.

APU

Principal Dondelinger, I can't help noticing these lemons were not purchased at my store.

DONDELINGER

(SHEEPISHLY) Well, they're quite a bit cheaper at the supermarket.

APU

(COLDLY) I see. (PUTTING ON COAT) If
this is science, I want no part of
it.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ON TV

We see the opening credits of the "Itchy and Scratchy"
show. The title card reads: "Our Shameful Neglect of the
Elderly." Another card follows, reading: "By Abraham
Simpson."

BART

Oh my God, Grampa actually wrote one.

LISA

(VENGEFUL) This is gonna be sweeter
than candy corn.

We see an ESTABLISHING SHOT of a nursing home. Itchy and
Scratchy are visiting GRAMPA ITCHY and GRAMPA SCRATCHY.

ITCHY

Hi, Grampa Itchy.

SCRATCHY

Hi, Grampa Scratchy.

ITCHY

Sorry we didn't visit you last year.

SCRATCHY

Yeah. Can we borrow some money?

GRAMPA ITCHY

You've got your nerve asking for a
handout! (TO CAMERA) That's the
problem with young people today.
They only come to see us older folks
when they want something.

Bart and Lisa look at each other.

GRAMPA SCRATCHY

We seniors are a living treasure of
experience and wisdom, yet you
discard us like so many old tea bags.
After a lifetime of hard work and
sacrifice, you young people repay us
with abuse, ridicule and neglect.

(POINTS ACCUSINGLY) For SHAME!

The cartoon ends with the standard CLOSING THEME.

ON TV

Krusty comes on. He is now covered with nicotine patches.

KRUSTY

(WEAK LAUGH) Funny stuff. Hey, Mel,
bring me another nicotine patch.

Mel enters with a patch.

KRUSTY (CONT'D)

I think there's some space on my
butt.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ROGER MEYERS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Meyers and Grampa watch the show on a monitor.

MEYERS

What the hell were you thinking?

GRAMPA

I think I got my message across.

MEYERS

There's no place for messages on
television!

ON TV

KRUSTY

We'll be back after these messages.

MEYERS

(ANNOYED GRUNT) (TO GRAMPA) Clean out
your desk. You're fired!

Roxie rushes in.

ROXIE

Mr. Meyers, come quick, the
switchboard is lit up like a
Christmas tree!

INT. OUTER OFFICE

The switchboard is blinking wildly.

MEYERS

It always does that.

He raps on the switchboard with his fist and it stops
blinking.

MEYERS (CONT'D)

We better get a repairman in here.

INT. SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - NIGHT

The class is preparing to take their final exam. Homer is cramming with a science book.

HOMER

(READING) "The point at which a liquid begins to boil is known as its boiling point." (GROANS) I'll never remember this stuff.

Dondelinger enters.

DONDELINGER

I know we're supposed to have our final exam tonight, but I think the real test for you has been conquering your fears and returning to High School. So I've decided to give you all B-minuses. Congratulations.

The class CHEERS and streams out of the room. Homer remains.

DONDELINGER

Simpson, you're now a High School graduate. Beat it.

HOMER

I want to take the test.

DONDELINGER

(MOANS) But I have tickets to see Neil Diamond.

HOMER

All my life I've just done enough to
get by. For once I want to earn
something.

DONDELINGER

All right.

He hands Homer an exam. Homer addresses his brain.

HOMER

Well Brain, you don't like me and I
don't like you. But let's just do
this and I can get back to killing
you with beer.

HOMER'S BRAIN (V.O.)

It's a deal!

He starts writing.

CLOSE UP DIPLOMA - LATER THAT NIGHT

Homer is adjusting it. He steps back from the wall.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marge and Homer look at the diploma.

MARGE

High school graduate. I'm so proud
of you, Homie.

HOMER

At last, Homer Simpson is nobody's
fool.

The diploma falls off the wall with a CRASH.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Stupid scotch tape.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD RETIREMENT HOME - ESTABLISHING - DAY

INT. SPRINGFIELD RETIREMENT HOME - GRAMPA'S ROOM - DAY

A lonely Grampa sits in his room. Bart and Lisa enter.

BART

Hi, Grampa. We saw your cartoon.

LISA

It really made us think.

GRAMPA

Well, if it made one child laugh,
then it's worth it.

There's an uncomfortable silence.

LISA

Yeah. Well, anyway, we realize we
really should visit you more often.

GRAMPA

And I guess this really belongs to
you.

He hands them his award. Bart and Lisa smile.

GRAMPA (CONT'D)

Now whaddaya say we drop clothespins
into a milk bottle.

BART

What's a clothespin?

LISA

What's a milk bottle?

GRAMPA

Here, I'll show you.

LISA

Okay, sure.

EXT. RETIREMENT HOME

We hold on this shot as we hear clothespins **CLINKING** into the milk bottle.

BART (V.O.)

What do we do when we get 'em all in?

GRAMPA (V.O.)

Then we churn butter!

The **CLINKING** continues as we:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE